

**From:** Moore, Bliss  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2001 2:13 PM  
**To:** Seifert, Marianne  
**Cc:** Haars, Ellen; Lenz, Yvette; Davis, Michelle  
**Subject:** Homeless Shelter Concerns

Per your request, below, in pertinent part, is a summary to my Director of my meeting with shelter operators and some licensing rule concerns they brought up at the Annual Homeless Coalition Conference in Wenatchee May 10.

"WORKING TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON STATE"

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Bliss Moore reported that he participated on a panel on Transient Accommodation (TA) licensing in a break-out session at the Annual Homeless Coalition Conference in Wenatchee on May 10.

There was a lot of interest in licensure as demonstrated by the many questions he was asked. Though there may have been concerns by some that he was there to take names of unlicensed shelter operations to pursue enforcement, he tried to assure them that this was NOT his purpose for being there. He said he did want them to be aware of licensure and its necessity but also wanted to solicit their participation in coming up with viable licensure rules for shelters. He explained that in the meantime he would work positively with unlicensed shelters to get them licensed and in compliance with the necessary standards. Also, he stated clearly that FSL would not be taking punitive action against any operation making a good faith effort to become licensed expeditiously.

The few licensing issues mentioned by the shelter folks as concerns were: 1) occupancy limitations & having an allowance for overcrowding in dire emergencies, 2) provision of bedding and personal items for clients with their own stuff, 3) requirements around food preparation, 4) some rules to allow churches, municipalities and the like to provide periodic emergency overnight sheltering, 5) how scattered sites under one operation should be licensed, and 6) possible waiver of (or reduced) licensing fees for shelters.

The session ended on a very positive tone. Everyone agreed the homeless are entitled to a decent safe and sanitary shelter environment. Several participants

approached [Bliss](#) after the session and thanked [him](#) for [his](#) comments and attitude regarding licensing. Many are looking forward to participating in rule development. Ted Kelleher from DCTD offered to serve as liaison between the shelters and DOH if necessary.

Already [the FSL TA licensing program](#) is receiving inquiries for applications for TA licensure from unlicensed shelters since [the conference](#).